

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) An information reproducing apparatus used in a transmitting/receiving system comprising a transmitting side and a receiving side,

(a) said transmitting side including:

(i) means for transmitting content information along with corresponding transmission time information, said content information being allowed to be stored for a predetermined value of time; and

(ii) means for transmitting transmission time information continuously after transmission of the content information has been completed,

(b) said receiving side including:

(i) means for reproducing received content information and the transmission time information;

(ii) means for temporarily storing the received content information as stored content information and the received transmission time information as stored transmission time information when the reproduction is interrupted;

(iii) means for obtaining a time difference between the stored transmission time information and the received transmission time information when the reproduction interruption has been terminated;

(iv) means for allowing a reproduction of the stored content information if the time difference is less than or equal to a the predetermined value, and means for executing charging of pay information based on the a value of the time difference; and

(v) means for presenting an audible and/or visual warning if the time difference is greater than the predetermined value.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the received content information and the received transmission time information are stored in the storing means in an encrypted state.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the received content information is information including encrypted television signals.

21. (Currently Amended) An information reproducing method used in a transmitting/receiving system including a transmitting side and a receiving side, comprising:

(a) on the transmitting side:

(i) transmitting content information along with corresponding transmission time information, said content information being allowed to be stored for a predetermined value of time; and

(ii) transmitting transmission time information continuously after transmission of the content information has been completed,

(b) on the receiving side:

(i) reproducing received content information and received transmission time information;

(ii) temporarily storing the received content information as stored content information and the transmission time information as ~~the~~ stored transmission time information when the reproduction is interrupted;

(iii) obtaining a time difference between the stored transmission time information and the received transmission time information when the reproduction interruption has been terminated;

(iv) reproducing the stored content information if the time difference is less or equal to than a the predetermined value, and executing charging of pay information based on the value of the time difference; and

(v) presenting an audible and/or visual warning if the time difference is greater than the predetermined value.

22. (Currently Amended) An information reproducing apparatus for a transmitting/receiving system having a transmitting side and a receiving side, comprising:

(a) on the transmitting side,

(i) a transmitting portion configured to transmit content information along with corresponding transmission time information in which the transmitting portion continues to transmit the transmission time information after the transmission of the content information has been completed, said content information being allowed to be stored for a predetermined value of time;

(b) on the receiving side,

(i) a reproducing portion configured to receive and reproduce the content information and the transmission time information;

(ii) a storing portion configured to temporarily store the content information as stored content information and the transmission time information as stored transmission time information when reproduction is interrupted;

(iii) a time-difference-obtaining portion configured to obtain a time difference between the stored transmission time information and current transmission time information received after the interruption is terminated;

(iv) a conditional-reproduction portion configured to reproduce the stored content information if the time difference is less than or equal to a the predetermined value;

(v) a charging portion configured to execute charging of pay information based on a value of the time difference; and

(vi) an output portion configured to provide an audible and/or visual warning if the time difference is greater than the predetermined value.

23. – 26. (Cancelled).